

Ethics Reflection Paper

Troy Kuhn

Marian University

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**Introduction**

According to Hall-Tonna Confluent Theory, I view the world as a project. I truly feel that this is correct. Through my past experiences, hardships, and triumphs, I feel that I want to leave this world knowing I lived my life the best that I can. I truly feel that when I lay on my deathbed, I will be ready, and those loved ones around me will be saying, "You have lived a great life; go and meet your Lord." Hard work and faith has allowed me to view the world this way.

**Personal - Dialectic Action Plan**

Also, according to Hall-Tonna, I am past the Authoritative Line. I know that I am ok with taking a leadership role, yet stepping back and allowing others to voice their opinions and be part of my team. The Goals Values that I have chosen are *Life/Self Actualization* and *Knowledge/Discovery/Insight*. I feel these values are a good representation of my current stage in life.

I consider myself mature and have a clear vision. I also feel that am way beyond the self-centered egotistical person that I used to be. I am smart, physically fit, and love to have fun. Today, I channel these qualities in a much more discrete manner. My maturity has showed that people will just recognize these qualities through my actions; I do not need to flaunt them like I used to. Education and maturity have definitely changed how I live my life. Also, now that I understand the meaning of family, I always put them first. I feel that this supports my *Life/Self Actualization* realm of my dialectic.

With an "I Can" philosophy, I do not let road blocks stop me from achieving my goals. I methodically figure things out. I almost always find a way to achieve my goals - sometimes creative, other times data-driven. I also understand that I do need to ask for help and surround

myself with specific people who can assist and support my vision. This supports the *Knowledge/Discovery/Insight* realm of my dialectic.

Overall, I am very satisfied with where I am with my life. First and foremost, my goal is to take care of my family. I do not want my children to have to pay for college. Eventually, I want to travel around the world and learn about the great place in which we live. Places I would like to travel include: Israel/Jerusalem, Egypt, Russia, Germany, Alaska, Serengeti Plains, Australia/Coral Reef, Yellowstone, Mediterranean, and Southern Canada. I know where I want to go, and I have a good plan on how to get there. I understand that the “cards are stacked” in my favor, and I have to be patient, but eventually, through my successes, I have a very good chance of eventually achieving these goals.

### **Professional - Dialectic Action Plan**

Professionally, I have made major changes in my life the last two years. I always thought I wanted to be a teacher my whole life; however, that has now changed. I am still very passionate about helping people, and I feel that as a principal or superintendent, I have a better chance of making major changes and indirectly influencing more people than I could in just my classroom. I view a principal as a teacher, but a teacher of teachers. I want to give everyone the tools and help them develop themselves. I want to support them, and also help them achieve their goals within their classroom.

I have fast tracked through the Marian Educational Leadership Program in order to achieve this. I knew that 12 graduate credits in one semester would be difficult, but I also knew that through hard work and determination, I could achieve my goal as principal quickly. I know that I have the willingness, heart, and determination to accomplish what is needed.

When I was a child, I always wanted to be a doctor, but a doctor/pediatrician. I wanted to be at that status and help as many people as I could. However, I shifted my focus to education in college, when I understood I could help teach and educate others.

From youth on, I was in a special Gifted and Talented program for children with high Intelligence Quotients. I was forced to do educational activities and learn educational academia that was much greater than my age. I was told that this program was getting the best out of my abilities. Looking back, I remember the days when I told myself that it wasn't fair; however, I now know that these activities did strengthen me, mentally and emotionally. This has given me the "Never Give Up" mentality, and has allowed me to achieve many things. I now aspire to become a doctor, but a Doctor in Education. I hope through my continued guidance from Marian, and through my hard work, I will also achieve this.

Finally, I would someday like to become a reverend. I have tossed this back and forth many times in my life. Again, I like helping people, and when I think the time is right, I will also enroll myself in theology classes. This deeper understanding of faith will not only help strengthen my faith, but will again give me the ability to help others. This would also help follow my dialectic and allow me to approach the *Truth/Wisdom/Insight* through *Prophet/Vision*. Maybe at retirement age, I can reach *Ecority/Aesthetics* through *Minessence*.

Last... I kind of like the name.... Rev. Dr. Troy Kuhn!

### **Myers-Briggs Type**

According to the data, my Meyers-Briggs type is ENTJ (Extraverted, Intuitive, Thinking, Judging).

When taking this test, some questions were very difficult, depending on the situation that I was in. I know that sometimes, you need to be an *extravert*, while other times there is a need

to step back and be introverted. When problem solving, I like to be around extraverted people, people who want to get at the task and get it done. I like those who are not afraid to speak their mind, think of the greater good, and help support the mission/vision. However, when at parties or other people's houses, I do not like to be the center of attention. I view these people as "attention seekers," "egotistical," and people who are "full of themselves." Getting attention makes them feel good. This is why I feel that I was only extraverted a little. I try to understand when it is appropriate to be extraverted.

Secondly, I was extremely *intuitive*. With a value of 41, I agree that I try to focus on the future and figure things out. I do not like to jump into things; instead, I like to get data, figure out possible solutions, and think what will give the best outcome/results. I may even go to the extreme with being intuitive. An example of this is deer hunting. I have multiple cameras in the woods; I map the deer patterns, age, and activities. I then try to pick the best stand to maximize my potential to harvest a particular animal. In other words, I don't just go in the woods, pick a spot, and hope for the best. Another example is when I work on projects (construction, welding, etc.), I always try to map out the project, with the end in mind, however, knowing that the foundation is the most important. I try to work backwards, final design to blueprints. I also attack tasks and problems this way. As principal, I feel this will be beneficial. I will try to always focus on what we are trying to accomplish? What are our goals? We will then formulate a plan in order to accomplish this.

*Feeling vs. Thinking* is another area that I struggled with. Sometimes I feel that it is good to think things through and do what is most logical, and other times, you need to just let your emotions take a hold of you and show sympathy/empathy or celebrate. There are situations in which you need to clearly sit back and not use emotions. This would include dealing with parents, problems, evaluations, or behaviors. At these times, your emotions should not be

involved in the process. As principal, I will focus on the problem and only address the problem. If emotions are attached, then I will advise that we take time to reflect and revisit at a later date. However, when a person loses a loved one, experiences trauma, etc., I feel like you should show your emotions and be with them (emotionally, mentally, and physically). Let them know that you are human and have emotions. On the other extreme, if someone does something great, celebrate with them (emotionally, mentally, and physically). Give them a high-five or a fist bump. Again, I think the context of the situation determines when thinking or feelings should prevail.

Finally, I am a person who *judges*, likes to be organized, and likes things settled. I consider myself extremely organized, not just in physical environment, but in thoughts and expression. With a score of 25, I feel like I try to conceptualize the person I am working with, in order to understand the reasoning behind their views. I want people to know that I have a clear vision and I clearly illustrate my thoughts and feelings. I feel that being organized saves time and confusion. Also, I do not like problems sitting unsolved. As a leader, I like to “throw out everything on the table,” discuss it, and then make a rational decision. I understand that sometimes you need to take a slow and rationalize problems, but for the most part, I try to think through the problems and solve them as quickly as possible. Also, judgemental, I see myself as a “people watcher.” When I go to public places, I pay more attention to the people in these places than I do to the material objects within those places. When I look at people, I try to figure out “their story.” Why are they the way they are? I could sit on a bench in a public park, at the county fair, or any type of foreign environment, and be satisfied by just watching the interactions of those around me. Overall, I feel like I am judgemental, I live my life with a well-organized and strategic plan, and I try to understand the reason for everything around me

By understanding and analyzing my Myers-Briggs type, I feel like I can better understand and predict how I am going to act in specific situations. Knowing yourself is a major part of being a good and effective leader.

### **Dialectic - Values in Stages**

See Attached

### **Action/Growth Plan**

My two most frequent identified values were: *Knowledge/Discovery/Insight* and *Life/Self Actualization*. When reflecting upon *Knowledge/Discovery/Insight*, I truly feel that it matches my Myers-Briggs type. I like to understand the wholeness of reality through investigation and patterns. As I live my life, I am never satisfied with what I have or what I know. I want to be a person who always digs for deeper meaning and understanding. I want to know what makes the “world go around” and what make people unique. When paths/results point me in specific directions or for better understanding, then I am content. As for *Life/Self Actualization*, I also feel that I am intrinsically motivated, and I have determination to accomplish many things. I want to be a better person, a person who improves himself holistically. I try to improve myself spiritually, psychologically, mentally, and physically. Spiritually, I am very involved within my church, sometimes too involved. Psychologically, mentally, and emotionally, I take care of myself through love, family, activities, and communication. I recognize when I am in need to have freeseence time with myself or family. I also recognize when I am need need of maintenance or fun time, for the well-being of myself or my family.

Another value that I would like to reflect upon is: Art/Beauty. These are two values that others can only begin to understand with with explicit explanations. I have two examples for Art

and Beauty. First example: I look like this big tough guy on the outside, but inside, I really am a softy. When watching movies, I often times get caught up in the emotions of the movie. When good or bad things happen, I just want to let my feelings out. Many times I cry during these types of movies, especially when it relates to the harm of children or family. Another example, is when I watch musical or drama performances, I know how hard those people have worked and how it transfers into how beautiful the end product is. I really like going to these types of performances. I have attended *Phantom of the Opera*, *Grease Live*, *Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance*, *Riverdance*, and *Trans Siberian Orchestra*. I really get caught up in everything that is going on; I just appreciate the beauty that surrounds me. Another example is when I am hunting. I prefer the thrill of the hunt, not the actual killing/harvesting of the animal. I consider myself an expert hunter. The reason is I actually hunt. To better understand this, I try to figure out a specific animal in which I am willing to harvest. I do not just kill to kill; I think that is wrong. If the specific animal I am trying to harvest outsmarts me that year, then I do not harvest anything. I cannot stand the people who consider themselves to be hunters and brag about the number of animals they kill. I would call these people "shooters." These people do not appreciate nature and what it gives them. When I am in the outdoors, I take in the full experience, the beauty of seeing everything around me. Yes, I have harvested large trophy animals, but in reality, I could every night if I wanted to. However, I would then become one of "them." I teach my children the quality and ethics of hunting. When you do harvest a trophy, give thanks, and celebrate appropriately.

My two most frequent identified means values were: *Collaboration* and *Achievement/Success*. I truly feel that communication and leadership allow me to be successful. Explained in other areas of my reflection, I stated how I was forced to mature at a young age. This is true; however, many people think I have is due to the fact that I was born



into a wealthy family. However, I do not like it when people think that I am where I am at is because I was fed with a “silver spoon.” People do not understand my past. After people get to know me and understand my work ethic, they then understand why I have what I have, and how I have accomplish so many things by such a young age. With a plan for my life, hard work, and determination, I truly feel like I deserve and earned everything that I have. People do not understand the hardships that I have been through.

As for collaboration, I feel that when making group decisions, it allows others to take ownership in the decision-making process. By taking ownership, others are invested in what they have decided. Also, I feel that group decision-making is more beneficial for the organization. Last, by modeling collaborative behaviors, I hope to illustrate that in order for a school to function effectively and efficiently, people must collaborate.

### **Reflection on doing time Diary**

When analyzing my Action growth plan, I fully understand that their needs to be a balance between family and work. I have learned this at a very young age. As far back as I can remember, my father was sick and could not do many of the activities that other fathers were doing with their children. I do remember my father as a strong person, knowing he did as much as he could do. I remember when I was only eight years old, I had to mow the whole lawn, snowblow the quarter-mile-long driveway, haul in wood with the truck, and do other activities that the majority of eight year olds could not and would not do. However, I did not have a choice. I understood that I must do these chores in order to get my family through the day. If a problem occurred or something broke, I would try to figure it out myself. If needed, I would figure out who to ask for help. I was forced to mature very quickly, as I basically had to act like a father figure at such a young age. Also, through this experience, I realized how important family

was. I wanted to spend as much “fun” time with my family as I could, just in case I too would become like my father at a young age.

I believe that my intuition, goal setting, and ethics have gotten to where I am today. I am very strong willed, yet emotional. I feel like I am very intelligent and try to lend a helping hand when I can. I firmly believe in setting goals, and creating a path to achieve them. When comparing these to my time diary, it is very clear that I do value each of the categories as I expected. I work approximately 27% of my life, yet I value the importance of quality play-time with my family (15%). I also understand that throughout the year, my maintenance, play, and presence will fluctuate. This is due to the fact that during tax season, I am required to do many of the chores around the house, and during the fall hunting season, my wife does many of the chores around the house. In the fall, my play and presence will increase. I feel that this is a good balance. I understand that at specific times of the year, I must give more maintenance to the family, and at others my wife must give more time to the family. As a family, we always give time for activities. We hunt, work out, bike, four wheel, snowmobile, have board game nights, and most importantly, have sit down dinners. Also, now that the girls are old enough, we have started to go on trips. We value good quality family time, and I am completely satisfied with the way we approach our lives.

Overall, I have learned a lot about myself, and a lot about the meaning of the vision that I have. Through these activities, it has strengthened my focus and vision for my life. I know that God has placed me on this earth to help and educate others. I am glad he has chosen me for this task.